



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: August 14, 2013

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium**

Recommendation:

Approve the proposed comments on the FEIS for the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium project, and direct the Public Works Department to submit the comments to the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA).

Previous Directives:

- May 24, 2013 - Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for submittal to the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority
- June 29, 2012 - Resolution 2012R-354, Appointed City representatives to the Stadium Implementation Committee and related actions.
- June 15, 2012 - Resolution 2012R-330, Appointed additional City representatives to the Stadium Implementation Committee and related actions.

Department Information:

Prepared by: Jeff Handeland, P.E., Principal Professional Engineer, T P & E 673-2363
Don Elwood, P.E., Director, Transportation Planning & Engineering 673-3622

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Jeff Handeland, Principal Professional Engineer, T P & E

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: The MSFA held an environmental scoping public meeting for the new Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium on October 23, 2012 and a DEIS public meeting on May 22, 2013.

City Goals: The City's infrastructure will be well maintained; people will feel safe in the City; a connected network of transportation options; Minneapolis' neighborhoods

will have unique identities and character, plentiful green spaces and public gathering areas

Comprehensive Plan: Policy 9.13 Minneapolis will restore and maintain the traditional street grid. The project's legislation "found and declared that the construction of a stadium within the development area is consistent with the adopted area plan, is the preferred stadium location, and is a permitted land use." Minn. Stat. § 473J.17, subd. 6.

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The legislation for the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium is described in the next section, "Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium Legislation and Update".

This Request for Committee Action provides an overview of the status of the project and summary and recommendations on the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium FEIS. The FEIS is a key step in the environmental review process for the project, and is used as a basis for future approval decisions .

In addition to the environmental review process, the stadium project will need to complete a right-of-way vacation process and a design approval process. The three processes can inform one another. However, they are separate processes.

In the future, recommendations will be brought forward to the City Council regarding requests from the MSFA for vacations of city right-of-way. Staff will also recommend other actions related to the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium project, including Implementation Committee recommendations on the stadium design.

Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium Legislation and Update

In May 2012, the Minnesota Legislature and the Minneapolis City Council approved funding for the new \$975 million multi-purpose stadium to replace the Metrodome. The Minnesota legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation addressing the proposed project, now codified at Minn. Stat. Chpt. 299 (See attached copy of the bill). The law also authorizes the establishment of the MSFA which will be responsible for the construction and operation of the facility.

The MSFA is governed by a five member committee that consists of:

- Three members appointed by the Governor
 - Michelle Kelm-Helgen, Chair
 - Duane Benson
 - John D. Griffith
- Two members appointed by the Mayor of Minneapolis
 - Barbara Butts William, PhD
 - Bill McCarthy

Ted Mondale is the CEO/Executive Director of the MSFA. The executive director is responsible for day-to-day administration of MSFA activities, and reports directly to the authority's five commissioners.

The state share of stadium costs shall be limited to \$348,000,000 for construction of a new stadium, as permitted under section 16A.726. The city of Minneapolis share shall be limited to no more than a \$150,000,000 contribution for construction, and the annual operating cost and capital contributions contained under section 473J.13.

The stadium project includes construction of the stadium and stadium infrastructure. "Stadium infrastructure" is defined in the legislation as plazas, parking structures, rights of way, connectors, skyways and tunnels, and other such property, facilities, and improvements, owned by the authority or determined by the authority to facilitate the use and development of the stadium.

The legislation defines the "Stadium site" as all or portions of the current site of the existing football stadium and adjacent areas, bounded generally by Park and Eleventh Avenues and Third and Sixth Streets in the city of Minneapolis, the definitive boundaries of which shall be determined by the authority and agreed to by the NFL team. See the attached stadium site map.

Summary on the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium

The MSFA has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed construction of the Stadium and related stadium infrastructure, a new approximately 65,500 seat stadium, with expansion up to 73,000, for use by the Minnesota Vikings and other civic and community uses. The project includes the Stadium structure and associated infrastructure improvements surrounding the Stadium site. The new Stadium will be constructed on the current site of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (Metrodome) and will include demolition of the Metrodome. The Stadium site is located from 11th Avenue to Park Avenue and 3rd Street to 6th Street in downtown Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The new Stadium is proposed to include shops, restaurants, an NFL team museum, and a Hall of Fame. The Proposed Project also includes stadium infrastructure as defined in the Project Legislation section below.

The Proposed Project being analyzed in this EIS includes the following elements:

- Construction of a new Stadium facility
- Possible retractable elements, such as retractable wall features
- Parking
- Potential closure and removal of 5th Street from Chicago to 11th Avenues
- Stadium infrastructure, including parking facilities and the stadium plaza
- Demolition of the Metrodome

The construction of the new Stadium may take up to 35 months, which will require the Minnesota Vikings to play up to two football seasons at the existing TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota Campus. The EIS scope includes the temporary impacts from the use of TCF Bank Stadium.

Summary and Recommendations on the Stadium Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The MSFA has prepared the FEIS to provide information about the magnitude of the proposed project, the extent of potential environmental impacts and how they might be avoided or minimized as a result of building and operating the Stadium.

The City of Minneapolis will be impacted by this project. The impacts are addressed in the FEIS and/or FEIS comments. City staff from the City Attorney's Office, CPED, Regulatory Services and Public Works reviewed the document.

The City made 109 comments on the DEIS. They ranged from typos to recommendations regarding potentially significant impacts to the City. Many of those comments were appropriately addressed in the FEIS. The comments on the FEIS range from supportive of statements in the FEIS, to urging the project to perform additional analysis to allow for adequate design of the stadium infrastructure, to pointing out omissions in the FEIS which will need to be addressed by the stadium's Traffic Management Plan. The comments are attached.

Proposed Action

The FEIS was released for public comment on August 1, 2013. Comments are due to the MSFA on August 19, 2013. Upon approval by the City Council on August 16, we will submit final comments.

Attachments:

- Stadium Site Map
- Minnesota H.F. No. 2958, Stadium Authorizing Legislation.
- Stadium FEIS Comments
- Target Field Traffic Management Plan

Cc: Mayor R.T. Rybak
Council Member Lisa Goodman
Council Member Barbara Johnson, Council President
Council Member Diane Hofstede
Jon Wertjes, Public Works
Lisa Cerney, Public Works
Chuck Lutz, Community Planning and Economic Development
Beth Elliot, Community Planning and Economic Development
Hilary Dvorak, Community Planning and Economic Development
Erik Nilsson, City Attorney's Office
Tom Frame, Regulatory Services

Stadium Site Map

